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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT

## I. HEADING

Date: October 24, 1995

Subject: American Plating Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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POLREP # 1

## II. BACKGROUND

Site No: VF Delivery Order No: 5001-05-379  
CERCLIS No: N/A EFNS No: N/A  
Response Authority: CERCLA NPL Status: Non-NPL  
State Notification: IEPA Start Date: 10/16/95  
Demobilization Date: N/A Completion Date: N/A  
Status of Action Memorandum: Approved

## III. SITE DESCRIPTION

A. Incident Category: CERCLA

B. Site Location: 1820 West Lake Street  
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

1. Site description: The American Plating site is an inactive and abandoned electroplating facility located at 1820 West Lake Street in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The site is situated in a mixed residential and commercial surrounding. The Henry Horner housing projects are located to the south across Lake Street. The site comprises of 6 large rooms and occupies approximately 0.5 acres. The coordinates for the site are latitude 41°53'8" North and longitude 87°40'18" West. The building is severely deteriorated and has a weak structural integrity with collapsed roofs at several locations. Entrance doors to the site are missing at several locations and free access to the site exists. The site area is frequented by vagrants

and a lot of "drug" paraphernalia is visible throughout the building.

2. Description of threat: Ecology & Environment, Inc. (E & E), the U.S. EPA Technical Assistance Team (TAT) contractor, conducted a site assessment in August 1995 and found chromic acid (pH 1.58 units) in 1 vat, a 0.48 pH acid in a drum labelled "sulfuric acid", a spilled drum containing 54,000 mg/kg chromium (TCLP chromium 608 mg/L), and a pit containing TCLP lead concentration of 5.2 mg/L. The open vats with hazardous contaminants, and several drums and pits with hazardous contaminants posed a threat to human health and the environment.

There have been at least 2 fires inside the building. The most recent fire occurred over the week of October 14, 1995. There were also two stolen/stripped vehicles inside the building since the site walk through October 3, 1995.

- C. Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results The American Plating site has not been previously evaluated under the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection investigative phases.

The site was brought to U.S. EPA's attention by the Chicago Department of Environment, who investigated the site and found hazardous contaminants.

#### IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

##### A. Situation

1. Current situation: Weather conditions: Mild temperatures, most sunny, highs ranging between low to mid 70s. Working hour site security necessary due to high crime area where site is located.
2. Removal activities to date: U.S. EPA initiated a removal action on October 16, 1995 by mobilizing the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor Smith Environmental and the TAT contractor E & E. Due to past vandalism and trespass at the site and the high crime neighborhood, armed security guards were hired to provide site security. The site building is screened daily with the help of the security guards. A Bobcat unloader, a storage trailer, and a mobile office trailer were mobilized to site.

During the week, ERCS contractor consolidated non-hazardous material into 4 roll-off boxes and shipped offsite. Rooms #4, #5, and #6 were swept and the

soil/dirt consolidated into a stockpile. White and green material in broken drums along with the spilled material were collected in poly drums and staged in Room #2. All other drums from Rooms #4, #5, and #6 were staged in Room #2. Acid drum contents were consolidated. All empty poly drums were cut up and shipped offsite with the non-hazardous waste. Three abandoned vehicles were moved out of the building and removed by Chicago City Streets and Sanitation Department. ERCS crew began clearing the wooden debris out of Pit #1.

3. Enforcement: A title search is in the process of being completed. The OSC has talked to the past owner/operator concerning site activities and access. 104(e) Notification Letters will be sent to all of the known site Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs).

**B. Planned Removal Actions**

Sample all site waste streams and arrange for waste disposal. Clear and sweep all areas. Remove and consolidate all waste materials in drums, vats, pits, walls, and floors. Decontaminate necessary portions of the building.

**C. Next Steps**

Remove debris out of vats, pits, and off the floor. Dispose of liquid wastes. Clean all vats and dispose of sludge and hazardous pit soils. Clear the debris in Room #3 to gain access to buried vats. Sample vats in Room #3 and dispose appropriately. Decontaminate appropriate portions of the site.

**D. Key Issues**

None

**V. COSTS**

**Extramural Costs:**

Total Cleanup Contractor (e.g, ERRS) Costs	\$62,853.23
IAGs	\$ 0.00
Cooperative Agreements/Letter Contracts	\$ 0.00
TAT/START	\$ 1,200.00
CLP	\$ 0.00
REAC	\$ 0.00
TOTAL, EXTRAMURAL COSTS	\$ 64,053.23

**Intramural Costs:**

Direct Costs (Region, HQ, ERT)	\$ 1,200.00
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Intramural Indirect Costs	\$ 2,120.00
TOTAL, INTRAMURAL COSTS	\$ 3,320.00
<u>TOTAL SITE COST</u>	<u>\$ 67,373.23</u>
Project Ceiling	\$ 323,000.00
Project Funds Remaining (percentage)	21%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

#### VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES

<u>Wastestream Medium</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Containment</u>	<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Disposal</u>
Non-haz debris Solid	80 cu.yds.	Roll-off box	Landfill	Landfill